REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

In this amendment, the specification and claims 1, 3-8 and 12-15 are amended, claims 9-11 and 16-20 are cancelled without prejudice, and new claims 21-22 are added. The specification is amended to remove or replace unclear, inexact or verbose terms with proper expressions so as to comply with 35 USC 112. Claims 3, 4-5, 9-10, 13 and 18 are reworded to overcome the claim objections. The amendments and new claims are support by the original specifications. No new matter is introduced.

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1-5, 9, 11-13 and 16-18 under 35 USC 102(a) as being anticipated by Bonaccio et al. (US Pat. No. 6,345,380, hereinafter Bonaccio); and the Examiner rejected claims 6-8, 14, 15, 19, and 20 under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bonaccio in view of Chan et al. (US Pat. No. 6,294,925, hereinafter Chan). The Applicant respectfully disagrees with the foregoing rejections for the following reasons.

Re claims 1-8

According to the Examiner, Bonaccio's Fig. 2 items 10, 11, 24 and 25 are equivalent to the first chip, second chip, electric level toggling circuit, and electric level recovering circuit recited in claim 1, respectively (page 3 of Office Action, penultimate paragraph). However, there is no disclosure in Bonaccio showing the toggling (changing a first internal signal with a first electric level to a first output signal with a second electric level) or recovering (changing the first output signal with the second electric level back to the first internal signal with the first electric level) of any signal transmitted from the element 24 to the element 25. In addition, there is no disclosure of toggling or recovering the control signal referred to or for toggling or recovering the signal transmitted from the element 24 to the element 25. Because Bonaccio fails to disclose and suggest each and every feature recited in the rejected claims, Applicant respectfully submits claim 1 and its dependent claims 2-8 are neither anticipated nor obvious over the cited reference. Withdrawal of the claim rejections is respectfully requested.

Re claims 12-15

Similar to the above discussion, Bonaccio does not disclose or suggest the toggling of any signal transmitted from the element 24 to the element 25 in response to a first toggling control signal. In addition, no second toggling control signal resulting in an unchanged second output signal is disclosed by Bonaccio. Even tough the Examiner stated that Bonaccio teaches in column 6, line 61 – column 7, line 22 that signals carried through the I/O circuit 28 to I/O circuit 29 remain unchanged so as to be equivalent to the second internal signal (Page 6 of Office Action, last paragraph), there is still no evidence showing the "unchanged signal" responds to a certain kind of toggling control signal. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that each and every feature of the rejected claims is neither anticipated nor obvious from the disclosure of Bonaccio. Therefore, claim 12 and its dependent claims 13-15 are novel and unobvious over the cited reference. Withdrawal of the claim rejections is respectfully requested.

Re claims 21-22

The new claims 21-22 are also novel and unobvious over the cited references. Bonaccio in view of Chan does not disclose or suggest the toggling or untoggling of internal signals in response to respective toggling control signals, and the combination does not disclose or suggest the subsequent recovering step.

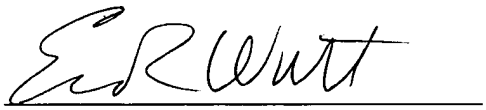
Furthermore, to establish *prima facie* obviousness, three basic criteria must be met. First, there must be some suggestion or motivation, either in the references themselves or in the knowledge generally available to one of ordinary skill in the art, to modify the reference or to combine reference teachings. Second, there must be a reasonable expectation of success. Finally, the prior art reference (or references when combined) must teach or suggest all the claim limitations. It is apparent that the combination of Bonaccio and Chan does not teach or suggest all the claim limitations after amendment. In addition, as admitted by the Examiner, Bonaccio's voltage noise or bounce reduction is achieved by forcing the unused I/O circuits, i.e. those chips not being activated, to serve as alternative paths to the voltage power supply used by the switching circuits (column 6, lines 61-65), and Chan's noise and ground bounce reduction is achieved by selectively delaying some macrocell output signals which are not time-critical

(column 8, lines 29-39). There is no motivation to combine Bonaccio with Chan to anticipate noise or signal bounce reduction which is achieved by selectively toggling and then recovering signals as recited in the claims.

In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 21-22 are novel and unobvious over the cited references.

For the above reasons, allowance of all pending claims 1-8, 12-15 and 21-22 is respectfully requested. Applicant respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case. If there are any remaining issues preventing allowance of the pending claims that may be clarified by telephone, the Examiner is requested to call the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,



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